[*Translation*]

Setting up of Pulmonary Institute in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

1616. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a proposal to the Union Government to set up a Pulmonary Institute in Bhopal;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) In the wake of the Bhopal Gas Disaster, the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, formulated a proposal for establishment of a National Pulmonary Institute of Industrial Disaster on the suggestion of the Department of Science and Technology.

After a series of discussion at various levels, the Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest recommended that the proposed Institute be located at Delhi with three Regional Centres, one each at Ahmedabad, Pune and Bhopal.

[*English*]

News item "Orissa SC/ST below poverty line"

1617. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of a study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) captioned "Orissa SC/ST below poverty line; Study" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated July 6, 1991;

(b) whether the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes have brought down the number of the poor living below poverty line from 48 per cent in 1977-78 to 37 per cent in 1984-85;

(c) whether the reported finding of a study by NCAER stating that 79 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes and 63 percent of the Scheduled Castes population of Orissa lives below the poverty line indicates that the desired objective has not been achieved in Orissa; and

(d) if so, further steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The study revealed that the households belonging to ST's and SC's are the poorest groups in rural Orissa.

(d) Through the Tribal Sub Plan strategy, the Special Component Plan, Special Centre Assistance and other schemes, development programmes for the benefit of ST/SCs are being implemented.

Science Museum at Vijayawada

1618. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a representation was made to establish science museum/centre in the big building available on Gandhi Hill at Vijayawada in Krishna District;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;